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General Report to the Public 1992

# National Forests in Mississippi General Report to the Public

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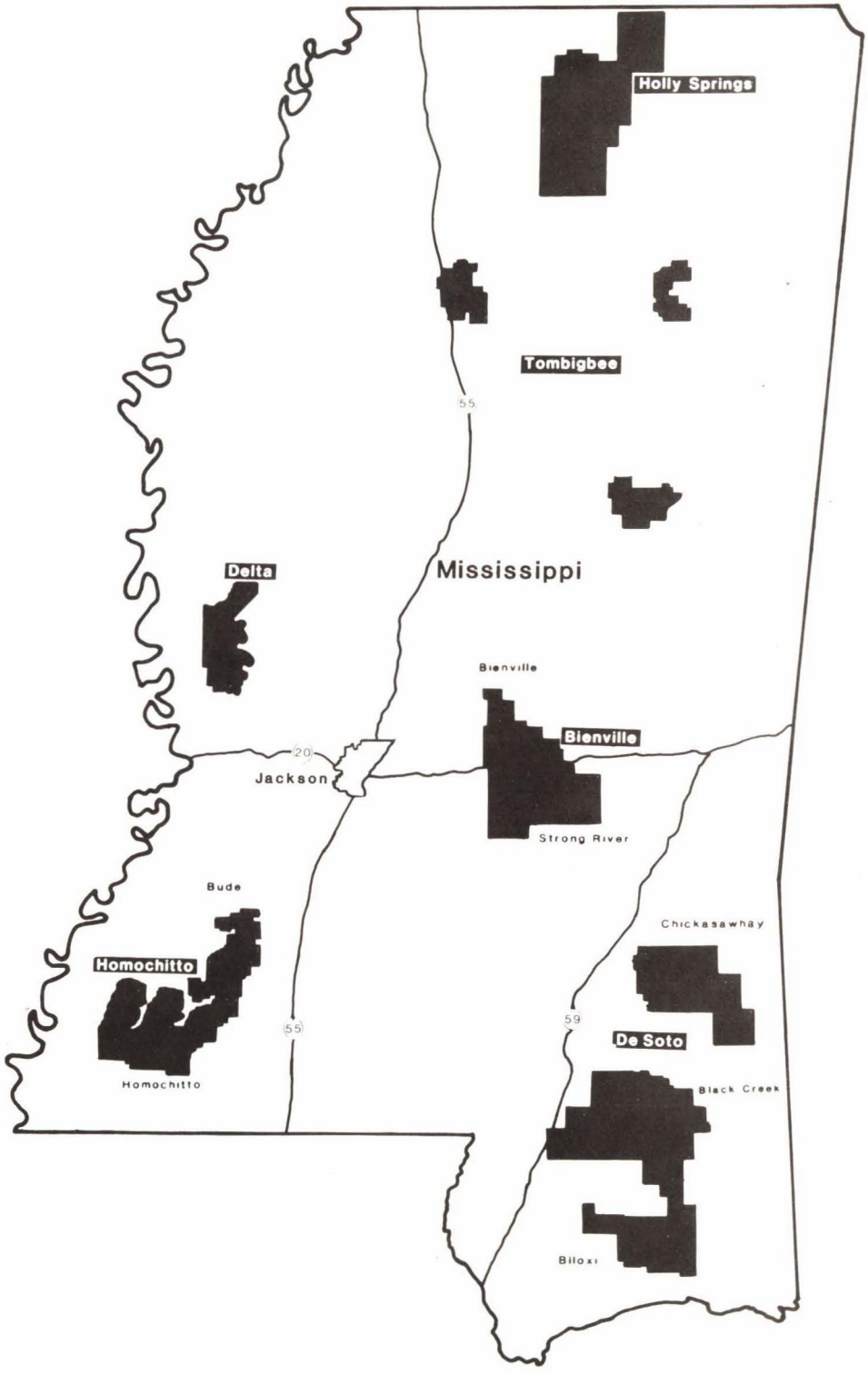
# National Forests in Mississippi



# About Your Forest. . .

## MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT: BALANCING RESOURCES

The National Forests in Mississippi are a key source of natural resources in the state. The 1,151,466 acres of public land are divided up into the Bienville, Delta, De Soto, Homochitto, Holly Springs, and Tombigbee National Forests. These six widely separated Forests are under the administration of the USDA Forest Service. The Forest Service incorporates a multiple use management program in order to manage the land for wildlife, timber, recreation, range, watershed. They also have a strong human resource program.

Information about the National Forests in Mississippi can be obtained by writing or calling any of the offices listed below:

**Forest Supervisor's Office**
National Forests in Mississippi
100 W. Capitol St., Suite 1141
Jackson, MS 39269
(601)965-4391

**Bienville National Forest**
Bienville Ranger District
Route 2, Box 1239
Forest, MS 39074
(601)469-3811

Strong River Ranger District
214 Mimosa Drive/Hwy 35 North
Box 217
Raleigh, MS 39153
(601)782-4271

**Delta National Forest**
Delta Ranger District
Sharkey-Ag Building
402 Hwy 61 North
Rolling Fork, MS 39159
(601)873-6256

**De Soto National Forest**
Biloxi Ranger District
Route 1, Box 61
McHenry , MS 39561
(601)928-5291

Black Creek Ranger District
1436 W. Border & Frontage Road
Box 248
Wiggins, MS 39577
(601)928-4422

**De Soto National Forest (cont.)**
Chickasawhay Ranger District
488 S. Magnolia Street
Box 426
Laurel, MS 39440
(601)428-0594

Ashe Nursery/Erambert Orchard
368 Ashe Nursery Road
Brooklyn, MS 39425
(601)584-8488

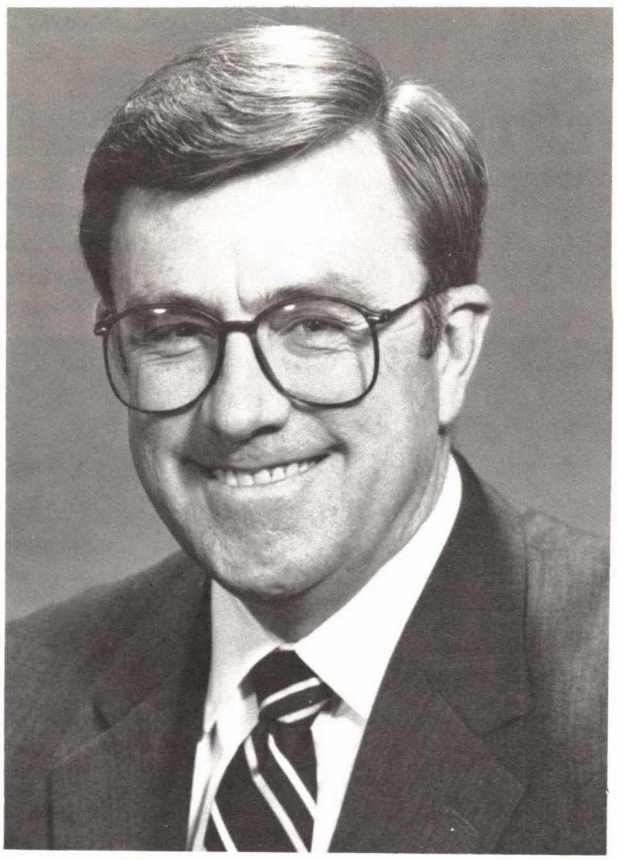
**Holly Springs National Forest**
Holly Springs Ranger District
Hwy 78 East, Box 400
Holly Springs, MS 38635
(601)252-2633

**Homochitto National Forest**
Bude Ranger District
Route 1
Meadville, MS 39653
(601)384-5876

Homochitto Ranger District
Hwy 24 East & Magnolia Street
Gloster, MS 39638
(601)225-4281

**Tombigbee National Forest**
Tombigbee Ranger District
Route 1, Box 98A
Ackerman, MS 39735
(601) 285-3264

# TO OUR FRIENDS



**Forest Supervisor, Kenneth Johnson**

Dear "Shareholders:"

This "General Report to the Public, 1992" is an approach to summarize information for you, the "shareholders" of the National Forests in Mississippi. This publication will report where we stand today as we continue to strive for a balance in resource management.

In keeping with the Forest Service mission, "Caring for the Land and Serving People," the Forest highlights for 1992 include timber stand improvement; production of seedlings for reforestation; and recreation area improvements. In 1992, there was continued special emphasis placed on the management of threatened and endangered species. Discussions of each resource program are in the report.

Many of the goals achieved in 1992 were due in part to the volunteers, partnerships in cost-sharing projects, and human resource programs on the Forests. Through the growth of partnerships and the aid of many people, we were able to complete several special Forest projects, which were additional to our scheduled program.

The future looks challenging. The Forest Land and Resource Management Plan is being carefully reviewed in preparation for a plan revision. Every aspect of the Forest Plan is being analyzed to determine what management direction is working well and what needs adjusting. Information is being collected to better address new public emphasis areas such as old growth, harvesting practices, endangered species protection, military use of the National Forests in Mississippi, and expanding environmental education and economic development.

I would like to point out that this report summarizes the Timber Sale Program Information Reporting System, plus the Forest Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Report. To obtain complete reports, you can contact our office at 100 W. Capitol Street, Suite 1141, Jackson, MS 39269.

We value your continued interest and involvement in the National Forests in Mississippi. Through cooperation between the Forest and its "shareholders," we can be assured that your public lands will continue to provide positive benefits for all.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. Johnson
Forest Supervisor

# General Report to the Public

# 1992 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Timber management is a major part of the National Forests in Mississippi. In 1992, the National Forests in Mississippi was the largest producer of timber in the State, the top producer in the Southern Region, and had the number one National Forest timber program in the nation with 213.2 million board feet (MMBF) sold and 206.4 MMBF harvested.

**Timber resources on forest land have enhanced employment in Mississippi.**

Timber revenues for this year totaled $22,537,033. There was $5,574,441 returned to the state for distribution to the counties containing National Forest land. These monies are earmarked for county school and road programs. Over the last thirteen years, these revenues have generated a total amount of 288 million dollars. Yet, with highly innovative management practices, the timber stands have continued to increase in volume.

The Forest utilizes several management techniques in current resource programs. These include: prescribed burning, reforestation by artificial and natural methods, stand improvement, insect and disease control, and vegetation management. A major portion of wildlife and fisheries habitat improvement and soil restoration projects are accomplished with the funds provided by Knutson-Vandenburg bill. This bill provides that funds from the sale of timber on national forest lands may be used for special improvement projects on the timber sale area. Examples of the projects completed with funds from this bill include: construction of wildlife waterholes, bird and waterfowl boxes, wildlife openings and food plots, gulley restoration, shoreline deepening, construction of fishing levees, and many other projects.

The Forest firewood program has been changed from one of "free-use" to a "firewood for sale" program. In the past, users could obtain a free permit to cut and remove up to three cords of wood from designated areas for personal use. Under the new regulations, a user can still obtain the same amount of firewood, but for a minimal fee that must be paid prior to firewood cutting.

## WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Every year the National Forests in Mississippi improves an increasing amount of habitat for a diversity of wildlife and fisheries species. These outstanding wildlife resources on the Forests are a result of a comprehensive management program, coordinated with timber harvest, and public partners. Our Forest lands represent eighty-nine percent of all available public hunting areas in Mississippi and support one of the largest populations of white-tailed deer and wild turkey on public lands in the South. To meet these responsibilities, wildlife and fisheries budgets totaled approximately $1.6 million in 1992.

In order to allow the public to share in the wildlife and fisheries management of their National Forests, the Challenge Cost Share program was developed. In this program, concerned groups and individuals can, as our partners, do hands-on conservation and enhancement work for wildlife and fish habitat in Mississippi. Typically, conservation, community, and business groups sponsor portions of the wildlife projects, and the Forest Service provides the rest of the needs. There were thirty Challenge Cost Share agreements entered into during 1992.

They included work to improve habitats for threatened and endangered species, fish, and other wildlife species on National Forest lands.

In recent years, an additional emphasis has been placed on the management and protection of federally threatened and endangered species. Six species of animals and plants listed in these categories are known to be on the National Forests in Mississippi: the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Gopher

Tortoise, Pondberry, Eastern Indigo Snake, Mississippi Sandhill Crane, and Woodstork.

Extra efforts are being made in Mississippi to reverse the decline of our Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) populations. The comprehensive management strategy for the RCW includes restoring and improving habitat; restricting other animals from RCW nests; and monitoring individual nesting colonies. In addition, for the last two years female birds have been moved from Florida to colonies on the De Soto National Forest occupied by only single male birds. It is hoped that these pairs will help rebuild the RCW population there. Also, several artificial cavities have been installed to increase available nesting habitat.

**Fish restocking operation at Davis Lake**

The Gopher Tortoise is a terrestrial turtle that inhabits deep sandy soil areas located on the De Soto National Forest. Protection of the Gopher Tortoise is actively being pursued through the monitoring and protecting of colony sites and maintaining quality habitat.

The Eastern Indigo Snake has been found on the De Soto National Forest and is associated with the Gopher Tortoise whose burrow it uses for refuge and winter denning. Management and protection of Gopher Tortoise habitats also help provide for the Eastern Indigo Snake.

The Mississippi Sandhill Crane inhabits seasonally wet coastal pine savannas such as those found on the Biloxi Ranger District of the De Soto National Forest. Efforts are being made to protect and improve remaining habitat that is favored by this Endangered Species.

The Woodstork is known to occupy primarily freshwater wetlands, including ponds, cold cypress swamps, and lakes. Efforts are being made to retain the seasonal flooding characteristics of the Delta National Forest which is attractive to the bird.

The Pondberry is a flowering plant known to occur on sandy sinks, pond margins, and swamps of the Delta National Forest. Surveys are currently underway to identify specific areas on the forest where the plant is located. Management guidelines presently consist of total protection of this species.

The Forest Service is also emphasizing quail management on its land around the state in response to the widespread decline of populations and habitat throughout the southeastern United States.

Recently, the Forest Service has directed some of its focus toward improving the fisheries resources on National Forest lands. One special program is the "Rise to the Future" initiative set forth in 1987 by Dale Robertson, Chief of the Forest Service. The National Forests in Mississippi completed several projects in 1992 such as lake liming and fertilizing and the addition of fish structures. Angler access has also been improved through the development of better roads and the construction of artificial and natural fishing piers. Most of the districts participated in the Annual Kids Fishing Rodeo sponsored each year by local and national business and organizations.

## RECREATION

The six National Forests in Mississippi have all been classified as "Urban-Like" Forests by the Southern Region. (Urban-Like Forests are those with urban recreation pressures because of their close proximity to heavily populated areas.) The National Forests in Mississippi draws heavily from urban centers such as Memphis, Jackson, Mobile, and New Orleans, all within less than a half day drive from a National Forest. The recreation areas in these Forests enable visitors to enjoy fishing, camping, hiking, swimming, and other outdoor activities. Use of Forest Service recreation areas is increasing five to seven percent each year in Mississippi. There is an ongoing program to upgrade and expand the present recreation areas to not only

increase capacity, but to provide the facilities and activities today's recreating public wants.

The Interpretive Master Plan for the National Forests in Mississippi was updated in 1992. It incorporates significant natural, cultural and historical, and recreational resources from each Forest into one conceptual plan for future interpretive development.

**Clear Springs is one of our most popular recreation areas, attracting weekend visitors from as far as New Orleans.**

Cultural Resources initiated a Challenge-Cost Share project with Mississippi State University. Test excavations were conducted at Owl Creek Mounds archaeological site, which is adjacent to the Davis Lake Recreation Area. Data obtained from these excavations will be used to interpret the mounds. Further studies are to be conducted on other Forest sites in 1993.

Throughout the Forest, 255 miles of trails were constructed, reconstructed, or improved for the user enjoyment and safety.

## FIRE MANAGEMENT

The National Forests in Mississippi had an average fire year in 1992. There were 211 wildfires on all of the Forests. This was an increase over 1991 due to a prolonged spring fire season. Arson was responsible for 77% of the wildfire starts. As a result of intensive investigation by our Law Enforcement Officers, three convictions of wildfire arsonists were obtained.

The weather was favorable for prescribed burning, and the Forests were able to complete 138,288 acres which benefited various resource uses. Major project areas for burning were: control of species composition; reduction in available fuel for wildfires; wildlife habitat improvement; and site preparation for tree planting. The National Forests in Mississippi have the largest prescribed burning program in the nation.

During the past year, the Forest Dispatch Center sent twenty persons on fires throughout the United States as specialists. They also dispatched four 20-person fire fighting crews. Ninety of our personnel were sent on fires outside the state. Everything went smoothly thanks to the excellent cooperation that was received from the Mississippi Air National Guard.

Through ongoing cooperative efforts with the Mississippi Forestry Commission, in-state fire training was conducted. There was one State Forestry Crew dispatched to Idaho this summer as a part of the four total sent. This was the fourth year that a crew from the Forestry Commission travelled out of state on a fire assignment.

**Fire plow in action**

In April, the Eighth Annual Prescribed Fire Shortcourse was held at Mississippi State University. This nationally recognized program is a joint effort sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service, School of Forestry, Mississippi Forestry

Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, and private forest industries. Since 1984, approximately 370 foresters and technicians from around the country have completed the course.

## SOIL, WATER, AND AIR

Stewardship of soil and water resources of the National Forests in Mississippi is a true test of multiple use management. The soils in Mississippi are some of the most productive, and if not properly managed, most erosive soils in the South.

Soil and water are the basic forest resources. These resources are dependent on the manner in which these lands are managed, conserved, and used. This gives rise to the Forest Service's commitment to maintain and enhance soil productivity and water quality.

**Conducting water quality check at Marathon Lake**

In support of this commitment, the Forest Service initiated several activities this year designed to maximize the wellbeing of the land and its resources. These activities include 35,000 acres of soil surveys to determine soil capabilities and limitations associated with forest management; restoration of sixty-five acres with declining rates of productivity and/or water quality; maintenance of 201 acres of previously restored lands; 3,500 acres of water inventory which included wetlands; and monitoring the Land Management Plan standards and guidelines developed to protect or enhance soil productivity and water quality.

Implementation monitoring was accomplished on all ground disturbing activities. All projects met the state Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the activity.

Effectiveness monitoring was done on several timber harvest areas on five Ranger Districts. Standards & Guides were effective in protecting the soil and water resources.

The first phase of a long-term (60 year) soil productivity study associated with timber harvest activities was implemented. Three study sites were established in Mississippi.

Each site consists of nine one-acre plots which represent all possible combinations of three levels of compaction (none, moderate, and severe) and three levels of organic matter removal (bole only, total tree, and total above-ground biomass removal).

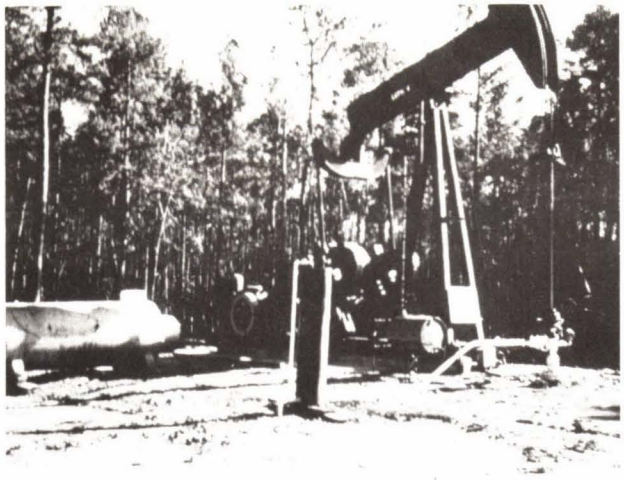
The sites will be monitored over the next rotation by measuring and surveying the new stands. The information gathered will be used in developing models for use by land managers and in establishing threshold values for use in soil quality and productivity monitoring.

This year, shear and pile site preparation work was evaluated on the Chickasawhay and Black Creek Ranger Districts. In August and September, a monitoring technique for determining percent bare soil associated with shear and pile site preparation method was field tested.

This year was the second year for monitoring ozone injury to vegetation on the Black Creek Wilderness and Holly Springs Ranger District. Results of monitoring so far indicate that some vegetation has experienced injury from ozone but not a significant amount.

National Forests in Mississippi personnel were very active as committee members and participants in: the State's Clean Water Celebration, the Marine Education Festival in Pass Christian, and the Governor's Conference on Water Quality and Quantity held in Jackson.

## LANDS AND MINERALS



**One of the many producing oil wells on National Forest land**

The National Forests in Mississippi has an active lands program which includes land exchange, land purchase, mineral management, rights-of-way acquisition, title claims, land surveying and maintenance, and special uses.

Land exchange is used by the Forests to consolidate ownership and improve forest management capabilities. In order to obtain private lands within or adjacent to Federal lands, the Forest allows these private interests to trade for Federal lands outside of or adjacent to the Forest. In the end, the private interest owns a well-managed piece of land, while the Forest is a bit closer to becoming consolidated.

In addition to providing such benefits as consolidation and acquisition of properties which enhance the quality of our wildlife population and wetlands, the land exchange program has provided a net increase of 11,713 acres to our National Forests over the past twelve years. At the present time, thirty-three Mississippi counties contain a combined total of 1,151,466 acres of land managed as National Forests.

The lands section acquires twenty to thirty rights-of-way per year and maintains approximately 600 miles of landlines annually. Claims, encroachments, and land surveys are also processed as needed under supervision of this unit.

Mississippi Forests rank high in the South for income and revenues from oil and gas royalties. Approximately fifty percent of National Forest land in Mississippi is under lease for potential oil and gas development. With about 1,130 leases and around 300 new or re-lease applications processed each year, it is obvious that oil and gas companies are continually showing interest in National Forest land.

Requests for individual, corporation, or community use of National Forest lands can be authorized by special use permits and must be approved through the Forest Service offices. Presently, the largest special use is for military training by the Mississippi National Guard at Camp Shelby in the De Soto National Forest. The Camp Shelby permit encompasses over 116,000 acres of land under a special use permit.

## ENGINEERING

The National Forests in Mississippi contains roads that predate the establishment of the Forests and buildings that date back to the days of the Civilian Conservation Corps. So, in keeping with resource management guidelines, the facilities are developed and maintained to meet present day standards. The Forest Road Program consists of maintenance, operation, construction, and reconstruction projects.

**A new bathhouse being constructed on the Choctaw Lake Recreation Area**

Due to the age of some of the buildings and roads, more than normal maintenance is required for them to remain serviceable. At present, a systematic schedule of replacement is being worked out in the budgeting process to get these facilities replaced.

Very little new road construction is done on the Forests. Through good transportation planning and greater efficiency, 9.85 miles of new road construction and 88.7 miles of reconstruction were needed to support the sale of 213.2 MMBF of timber.

Many of the present roads are often subject to closure and vegetation after the timber is removed either temporarily or permanently in an effort to reduce erosion potential; and to maintain, provide, and protect the wildlife habitat.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

The objective of the Human Resource Program is to provide human and natural resource benefits through administering and hosting programs in work, training, and education. Jointly, the individuals who take part, as well as the Forest benefit from the coordinated efforts. Such programs offer training and work opportunities to the elderly, persons with disabilities, youth, and minorities.

The largest program is the Senior Community Service Employment Program where persons 55 years old and over are employed by the Forest Service with the Department of Labor providing funding. The 127 enrollees performed projects throughout the Forests, mostly in recreation and wildlife. This year, the work accomplished was valued at $959,770.

**Older Americans assisting in the construction of a picnic shelter**

Volunteers are an important human resource for the Forests. There were 420 volunteers who donated their time and performed tasks that were valued at $168,935. Reasons for volunteering varied from: Boy Scouts who receive Merit Badges, people who appreciate the outdoors enough to give something back, and people who just want to lend a helping hand.

# SUMMARY OF THE FOREST PLAN MONITORING AND EVALUATION REPORT

The National Forests in Mississippi annually monitor and evaluate programs and projects in order to determine whether these activities are meeting the management direction prescribed in the Forest Plan. This process is designed to insure that Forest Plan goals and objectives are being met; that standards and guidelines are being properly implemented; and that environmental effects are occurring as predicted. The results of this evaluation allow the Forest Supervisor to initiate action to improve compliance with standards and guidelines where needed. From this report, the Supervisor can also determine if the Forest Plan needs to be altered to improve resource management.

For 1992, there was a gradual progression made towards supplying the goods and services prescribed by the Forest Plan. Although some objectives were not met, actual accomplishments outnumbered the funded activities. Many of these objectives were reached through such programs as the Senior Community Service Employment Program, volunteers, and the Cost Share Program.

Evaluation of the monitoring results in 1992 showed that a majority of the prescribed standards and guidelines were being followed and were effective in maintaining high-quality resource management.

For more information, the complete Monitoring and Evaluation Report is available upon request from:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE
100 WEST CAPITOL STREET
SUITE 1141
JACKSON, MS 39269

## TIMBER SALE PROGRAM INFORMATION REPORTING SYSTEM SUMMARY

The Forest Service Timber Sale Program Information Reporting System (TSPIRS) is an annual report of the costs, revenues, resource benefits, and local community effects of the timber sale program in the National Forests in Mississippi. TSPIRS consists of three parts: the statement of Revenues and Expenses, the Economic Account, and the Employment and Income Amount.

Results of the National Forests in Mississippi timber sale program in 1992 include:

--Approximately 206 million board feet of timber, valued at over $22 million, were harvested from the National Forests in Mississippi in 1992.

--Revenues exceeded operation expenses by $14,911,745.

--$5,574,441 was distributed to local governments for roads and school programs.*

--An estimated 2,188 jobs and approximately 41 million dollars were generated in local communities as a result of the timber sale program on the National Forests in Mississippi.

--These are benefits from the timber sale program that go beyond cash receipt. These benefits include improvement of public access, increased dispersed recreation opportunities, more diverse wildlife habitat, and a reduction in risk of insect and disease epidemics.

***This is the timber portion of the $6,147,257 total 1992 return to the state of Mississippi for disbursement to counties with National Forest land. The remaining amount was generated through oil and gas, recreation, and other special land uses.**

# EMPLOYMENT, INCOME AND PROGRAM LEVEL ACCOUNT TIMBER SALE PROGRAM INFORMATION REPORTING SYSTEM (TSPIRS)

**(in 1992 dollars)**

| EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME | TOTAL JOBS |
|---|---|
| TOTAL JOBS | 2188 |
| | VALUE (M$) |
| TOTAL INCOME TO COMMUNITIES | 40,595 |
| FEDERAL INCOME TAXES GENERATED | 6,090 |

| RELATED TIMBER INFORMATION | QUANTITY |
|---|---|
| TIMBER | |
| OFFERED | 213.5 MMBF |
| SOLD | 213.2 MMBF |
| HARVESTED | |
| SAWTIMBER | 116.7 MMBF |
| ROUNDWOOD | 89.0 MMBF |
| FIREWOOD | 0.7 MMBF |
| TOTAL | 206.4 MMBF |
| ACRES HARVESTED BY TYPE CUT | |
| THINNING | 16,547 ACRES |
| SEEDTREE | 475 ACRES |
| SHELTERWOOD | 851 ACRES |
| REMOVAL | 420 ACRES |
| CLEARCUT | 9,255 ACRES |
| TOTAL | 27,548 ACRES |
| REGENERATION ACRES TREATED (ARTIFICIAL) | 13,255 ACRES |
| TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT TREATMENTS | 6,953 ACRES |
| FOREST ROAD PROGRAM (IN SUPPORT OF THE TIMBER PROGRAM) | |
| PURCHASER CREDIT | |
| CONSTRUCTION | 9.9 MILES |
| RECONSTRUCTION | 88.7 MILES |

# NATIONAL FORESTS IN MISSISSIPPI
# STATEMENT OF TIMBER SALE REVENUES AND EXPENSES

| ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION | TOTAL |
|---|---|
| REVENUES | |
| Timber Sales | 20,797,927 |
| Purchaser Road Credit | 1,442,503 |
| Associated Charges | 277,373 |
| Interest & Penalties | 19,230 |
| TOTAL REVENUES | 22,537,033 |
| DIRECT EXPENSES | |
| Total Timber Sale Exp[1] | 5,651,221 |
| Total Timber Program Exp[2] | 6,998,048 |
| INDIRECT EXPENSES | |
| Timber Program Espenses[3] | 627,240 |
| TOTAL INDIRECT EXPENSES | 627,240 |
| TOTAL TIMBER EXPENSES | 7,625,289 |
| GAIN BEFORE PAYMENT TO STATE | 14,911,745 |
| PAYMENTS TO STATE | 5,574,441 |
| NET GAIN FROM TIMBER SALES | 9,337,304 |
| VOLUME HARVESTED (MBF) | 206.4 |

[1]Includes harvest administration, sale preparation, general adm. of sales, other resource support, coop road maintenance, and road depreciation exp.

[2]Includes timber planning, transportation planning, silv. exams, KV reforestation, TSI, appropriated reforestation and genetic tree improvement.

[3]Includes general program administration.

# ECONOMIC EFFECTS
# NATIONAL FORESTS IN MISSISSIPPI
# PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1992
# (in 1992 Dollars)

**Present Value of Benefits**

| **Positive Effects** | M$* |
|---|---|
| Timber | $29,468 |
| Wildlife | 2,398 |
| Total | 31,866 |
| **Negative Effects** | |
| Wildlife | 220 |
| Total | 220 |
| **Total Present Benefits** (Positive less Negative) | $31,646 |
| **Present Value of Costs** | |
| Timber | 13,043 |
| Roads | 7,614 |
| Wildlife | 546 |
| Total | $21,203 |
| **PRESENT NET VALUE** | $10,443 |

*$M -- Amount is in thousands.

The purpose of this part is to evaluate and account for all future net economic benefits from the acres harvested in FY 1992. This part specifically considers the economic value of all commodities, such a timber, and all non-commodities, such as recreation and wildlife habitat. Benefits are accounted for whether they are positive or negative.

## PAYMENTS TO THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

| COUNTY | NF ACRES | 25% RETURN 1991 | 25% RETURN 1992 | 10 YR. AVE. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **BIENVILLE NF** | | | | |
| JASPER | 17,156 | $ 121,044 | $ 123,108 | $ 112,021 |
| NEWTON | 3,341 | 23,711 | 23,974 | 21,608 |
| SCOTT | 85,084 | 605,545 | 610,546 | 566,136 |
| SMITH | 72,757 | 516,061 | 522,090 | 477,028 |
| | 178,338 | $1,266,361 | $1,279,718 | $1,176,793 |
| **DELTA NF** | | | | |
| SHARKEY | 59,534 | $ 85,829 | $ 152,615 | $ 64,829 |
| **DESOTO NF** | | | | |
| FORREST | 50,031 | $ 176,126 | $ 213,859 | $ 205,444 |
| GEORGE | 8,781 | 31,077 | 37,355 | 37,595 |
| GREENE | 33,191 | 117,468 | 141,199 | 139,608 |
| HARRISON | 62,516 | 221,253 | 265,950 | 259,456 |
| JACKSON | 18,795 | 66,518 | 79,956 | 79,790 |
| JONES | 32,951 | 116,619 | 140,178 | 138,856 |
| PEARL RIVER | 3,805 | 13,466 | 16,187 | 16,563 |
| PERRY | 161,929 | 572,949 | 688,866 | 682,010 |
| STONE | 41,909 | 148,198 | 178,286 | 175,305 |
| WAYNE | 90,146 | 319,040 | 383,492 | 379,116 |
| | 504,054 | $1,782,714 | $2,145,330 | $2,113,743 |
| **HOLLY SPRINGS NF** | | | | |
| BENTON | 54,949 | $ 232,444 | $ 129,833 | $ 112,563 |
| LAFAYETTE | 38,840 | 163,577 | 94,133 | 80,217 |
| MARSHALL | 21,297 | 90,352 | 50,320 | 44,072 |
| TIPPAH | 9,308 | 39,696 | 21,993 | 19,229 |
| UNION | 7,895 | 35,448 | 18,654 | 18,977 |
| YALOBUSHA | 20,776 | 88,604 | 49,089 | 43,890 |
| | 153,065 | $ 650,121 | $ 364,022 | $ 318,948 |
| **HOMOCHITTO NF** | | | | |
| ADAMS | 14,203 | $ 145,308 | $ 142,410 | $ 135,832 |
| AMITE | 35,642 | 364,647 | 357,375 | 339,683 |
| COPIAH | 7,305 | 74,736 | 73,245 | 69,862 |
| FRANKLIN | 94,270 | 971,243 | 945,225 | 907,581 |
| JEFFERSON | 7,819 | 79,207 | 78,399 | 74,119 |
| LINCOLN | 7,936 | 80,077 | 79,572 | 74,963 |
| WILKINSON | 22,724 | 220,382 | 227,849 | 207,196 |
| | 189,899 | $1,935,600 | $1,904,076 | $1,809,236 |
| **TOMBIGBEE NF** | | | | |
| CHICKASAW | 26,091 | $ 144,598 | $ 118,155 | $ 103,081 |
| CHOCTAW | 11,665 | 64,648 | 52,826 | 46,086 |
| OKTIBBEHA | 117 | 648 | 530 | 462 |
| PONTOTOC | 530 | 2,937 | 2,400 | 2,094 |
| WINSTON | 28,173 | 156,137 | 127,584 | 111,116 |
| | 66,576 | $ 363,968 | $ 301,495 | $ 262,839 |

# ACTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS COMPARED

| ACTIVITY | UNIT of MEASURE | ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FY 1992 Bienville | Delta | De Soto |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TIMBER MANAGEMENT** | | | | |
| Timber sold | MMBF[1] | 33.1 | 4.5 | 71.7 |
| Compartment prescriptions | acres | 23,698 | 4,230 | 36,748 |
| Reforestation | acres | 2447 | 597 | 5083 |
| Timber stand improvement | acres | 1075 | 15 | 1954 |
| Prescribed burn-site preparation | acres | 0 | 0 | 545 |
| **RECREATION MANAGEMENT** | | | | |
| Operation and maintenance of developed sites | PAOT[2] | 97,500 | 3,250 | 117,000 |
| Camp and picnic area administration | areas | 4 | 1 | 8 |
| Dispersed recreation management | MRVD's[3] | 205,600 | 64,250 | 565,400 |
| Wilderness area (acres administration) | acres | 0 | 0 | 5,990 |
| Trail construction/reconstruction | miles | 10 | 0 | 22 |
| Trail maintenance | miles | 2 | 1 | 147 |
| Archaeological survey | acres | 4,826 | 350 | 20,020 |
| **ENGINEERING** | | | | |
| Roads maintained | miles | 361 | 70 | 1159 |
| Local roads constructed | miles | 3.0 | 0 | 2.1 |
| Local roads reconstructed | miles | 15.6 | 0 | 38.4 |
| **WILDLIFE & FISHERIES** | | | | |
| Lakes and ponds limed and fertilized | acres | 125 | 0 | 80 |
| Fisheries structures installed | structures | 48 | 0 | 22 |
| Nest boxes maintained or installed and Red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) cavity restrictors installed | structures | 319 | 14 | 106 |
| Prescribed burning, food plots, closed roads, RCW understory control, flooding of greentree reservoir, and seeded log landings | acres | 11,445 | 9,901 | 20,781 |
| **SOIL & WATERSHED MANAGEMENT** | | | | |
| Soil inventory survey | acres | 35,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Soil and water improvement | acres | 2 | 0 | 15 |
| Maintenance of watershed restoration | acres | 4 | 0 | 28 |
| Wetlands, flood plains, & water inventory | acres | 0 | 0 | 1,000 |
| **LANDS MANAGEMENT** | | | | |
| Land exchange | acres | 120 | 0 | 200 |
| Land purchases | acres | 0 | 0 | 506 |
| Rights-of-way acquisition | cases | 4 | 0 | 10 |
| Land lines established | miles | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| Land lines maintained | miles | 118 | 0 | 187 |
| **MINERALS MANAGED** | | | | |
| Oil and gas leases | cases[4] | [4] | [4] | [4] |
| **FIRE MANAGEMENT** | | | | |
| Prescribed burning fuel treatment | acres | 9,203 | 0 | 21,672 |

[1]MMBF -- Million Board Feet

[2]PAOT (Persons at One Time)--Each visitor day is one 12-hour period. The visitor day is the amount of time a particular recreation activity (i.e., picnicking) is enjoyed by a single visitor or a group to total up to 12 hours of use.

[3]MRVD's -- Thousands of Visitor Recreation Days

# WITH FOREST PLAN OBJECTIVES

| Holly Springs | Homochitto | Tombigbee | NFs MS Total | Forest Plan Estimates |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 31.1 | 50 | 22.8 | 213.2 | 263 |
| 9,592 | 26,155 | 8,200 | 108,623 | 120,000 |
| 1,585 | 2,707 | 836 | 13,255 | 18,736 |
| 566 | 2,694 | 649 | 6,953 | 2,835 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 545 | N/A |
| 156,000 | 45,500 | 230,750 | 650,000 | N/A[5] |
| 3 | 2 | 2 | 20 | 20 |
| 167,050 | 205,600 | 77,100 | 1,284.6 | 1,284.6 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 5,990 | 5,990 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 32 | 18 |
| 4 | 9 | 17 | 180 | N/A |
| 2,047 | 18,342 | 1,500 | 47,085 | N/A |
| 324 | 461 | 200 | 2,575[6] | N/A |
| 3.2 | 1.6 | 0 | 9.9 | N/A |
| 17.9 | 8.8 | 8.0 | 88.7 | N/A |
| 833 | 44 | 1,197 | 2,279 | N/A |
| 66 | 1 | 58 | 195 | N/A |
| 42 | 37 | 0 | 518 | N/A |
| 2,604 | 11,498 | 5,933 | 62,162 | N/A |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 35,000 | N/A |
| 15 | 28 | 5 | 65 | 22 |
| 72 | 50 | 47 | 201 | N/A |
| 1500 | 0 | 1,000 | 3,500 | N/A |
| 1184 | 0 | 0 | 1,504 | 2,500 |
| 1082 | 0 | 0 | 1,588 | N/A |
| 8 | 4 | 1 | 27 | N/A |
| 8 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 20 |
| 93 | 116 | 48 | 560 | 600 |
| [4] | [4] | [4] | 331 | N/A |
| 4,012 | 9,002 | 5,000 | 48,889 | 48,000 |

[4]Data is not available on field unit level.
[5]N/A -- The Forest Plan does not contain specific quantified objectives for these management activities.
[6]This total includes 313 miles of closed roads.

# Only You Can Prevent Forest Fires

## Upcomming in 1993...

# Highlights *of the* National Forests in Mississippi

## BIENVILLE NATIONAL FOREST

*RECREATION*

•On the Strong River Ranger District, an Adopt-A-School Field Day was conducted with North Jackson Middle School. At this event students enjoyed presentations and programs concerning wildlife, fisheries, nature walks, compass use study, and outdoor recreation. A school program on scientific nomenclature and identifying plants and animals was conducted with Taylorsville High School.

•Contacts are being made to find partners and cooperators to assist in improving and enhancing recreation and wildlife opportunities at Beaver Lake in northwest Smith County. The 67-acre lake dates back to railroad logging days when tramline was built through Davis Creek drainage allowing an impoundment to form. Over time, the lake became a favorite site for fishermen and waterfowl hunters.

•On the Bienville Ranger District, there was a 50 mile cross country race held on the horse trail. Although it was a rainy January day all of the runners were thrilled with the run.

*HUMAN RESOURCES*

•Five hunting clubs entered into continuing volunteer agreements on the Bienville National Forest's "Adopt-A-Road" and "Adopt-A-Trail" programs. Work accomplished includes trail maintenance, construction and reconstruction, litter pick-ups, roadside beautification projects, plus work done for wildlife habitat improvement.

•Several campground hosts spent summer periods in established recreation areas to greet visitors and accomplish light maintenance responsibilities.

•The Bienville Ranger District sponsored volunteer projects with the Nature Conservancy interest group; the Sierra Club; Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks; and Scott County Extension Service. These projects yielded twenty-six acres of wildlife habitat improvement and a Kids Fishing Day that hosted approximately hundred area youth.

## DE SOTO NATIONAL FOREST

*TIMBER MANAGEMENT*

•On the Ashe Nursery, after nearly thirty years, 6.6 acres of second generation south Mississippi loblolly production orchard and 5.6 acres of breeding clone bank in the Black Creek Orchard were established. The production orchard included twenty-seven clones, and the breeding clone bank contains forty-nine. The work in accomplishing this included making 1671 grafts, with 72% success.

*WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES*

•The Chickasawhay Ranger District continued to work with Quail Unlimited through the Challenge Cost Share agreement (CCS) to keep developed quail habitat fertilized and maintained.

*RECREATION*

•The Chickasawhay Ranger District received funding to upgrade its Turkey Fork recreation area. In the past, the heat and humidity--characteristic of South Mississippi Summers--discouraged camping in this area. Last summer, water and electrical hook-ups were installed in each of the twenty camping sites on Turkey Fork. Additional beach and swim area were developed at the boat launch. These improvements were made possible through Challenge Cost Share agreements with Pat Harrison Waterway, Green County Board of Supervisors, and Singing River Electric Power Association.

•On Black Creek Ranger District, the 4.5 mile Leaf Trail, which includes three bridges and a boardwalk, was completed into the Leaf Wilderness to provide public access into the area and resource protection of soil and water resources. Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) is being developed for both Black Creek and Leaf Wilderness.

•At Cypress Creek new toilets accessible to the physically challenged were installed. A 25-minute recreational video and display was completed to inform the public about recreational opportunities; educational experiences; increase public awareness of natural resource values; and how to protect them.

•On the Biloxi Ranger District, the renovation of the Big Biloxi Recreation Area, initiated in 1989, was completed for the vacation season in 1992. The renovation included a new bathhouse; a new water/well system; a sewage treatment system; utility hook-ups to all camping units; and paved camping spurs.

*HUMAN RESOURCES*

•Three Boy Scout Troops did volunteer work on the Tuxachanie Recreational Hiking Trail on the Biloxi Ranger District. This work included bridge repair and maintenance.

•Gulf Coast Sandblasters, Inc. (a group of Cyclists from South Mississippi) did volunteer work on the Bethel A.T.V. Trail which included rerouting, erosion control, bridging, maintenance, and patrolling or acting as host on all of the 62-mile trail.

•The Bigfoot Horseriders did volunteer work on the Big Foot Horse Trail which included signing, bush-hogging, and trail head maintenance.

•Two couples acted as campground hosts at Big Biloxi Campground for the year. Other individuals or small groups did general maintenance at Big Biloxi Campground, Airey Lake Campsite, and the P.O.W. Lake Area.

•Black Creek Ranger District had 129 volunteers during fiscal year 1992 involved in several different projects: two volunteers served as hosts at Janice and Cypress Creek Recreation Areas doing maintenance work; twelve volunteers performed maintenance work on the Black Creek Hiking Trail including the wilderness section; two volunteers participated in wildlife habitat improvement work and RCW and Gopher Tortoise monitoring; and 115 volunteers gathered 400+ bags of trash from the Black Creek Wild and Scenic River Corridor, Black Creek and Leaf Wilderness Areas, Black Creek Hiking Trails and numerous access routes to all these areas during the Black Creek Clean-up Event. The Clean-up event was a Mississippi ward winner in the Take Pride in America Program.

# DELTA NATIONAL FOREST

*WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES*

•The Forest held a special anterless deer hunt this year. Four students from Sharkey-Issaquena Vocational Center as well as district biologists assisted with the hunt by recording data; taking body weights, antler measurements, and blood samples; and helping to age deer. The students showed a definite eagerness to learn about deer biology and measurement.

*HUMAN RESOURCES*

•Delta entered into a hosted agreement with the Mississippi Department of Corrections and the Yazoo County Community Work Center to provide a healthful, wholesome, and educational outdoor activities and valuable job training and development program for state inmates. Their duties included maintaining roads, cleaning vegetation away from signs, planting acorns, and maintaining trails and campsites. This year's program involved twenty-one inmates and their work was valued at $20,394.

# HOLLY SPRINGS NATIONAL FOREST

*TIMBER MANAGEMENT*

•Holly Springs Ranger District entered into a Timber Cost Share agreement with Benton County Beaver Control Committee. The purpose of the agreement was to trap the animals and destroy their dams where impounded waters threatened National Forest roads and timber.

*RECREATION*

•Recreation experiences at Chewalla Lake improved with the arrival of full-time law enforcement and volunteer Campground hosts. Trail improvements were made which include relocation, new foot bridges, and stairs built, by our older American crews.

•Fishing rodeos in Marshall and Lafayette counties attracted over 200 participants, ages five through fifteen. Local sponsors included fishing clubs from Oxford and Southaven, State and Federal agencies, and area corporations.

*HUMAN RESOURCES*

•A Campground Host Program was in place during the summer on the Chewalla Lake. Volunteers were very active in general clean-up maintenance and made numerous suggestions for improving the area and the management.

•Several local boy scout troops did numerous different service projects at Chewalla Lake, including constructing and maintaining trails, and clearing vistas.

•A bass club from Memphis and another bass club from Oxford helped organize two separate youth fishing rodeos, one at Chewalla and the other at Puskus Lake.

•Two different Quail Unlimited Chapters helped with wildlife food plots, the MS chapter of the Wild Turkey Federation helped with road closures, and the Memphis Chapter of the Tennessee Trails Association helped with maintenance of a hiking trail.

# HOMOCHITTO NATIONAL FOREST

*TIMBER MANAGEMENT*

•The biggest natural threat to the stability of the pine forest of the National Forest in Mississippi is the Southern Pine Beetle. The second epidemic in five years continued on the Homochitto and Bienville Ranger Districts throughout fiscal year 1992. On the Homochitto Ranger District, the Southern Pine Beetle Project, one of the only two in the Southern Region established to demonstrate state-of-the-art management activities to prevent or reduce losses during epidemic populations, identified 830 spots during the course of the year and treated 647 to control the spread of the beetle and keep losses to a minimum. A total volume of 5.5 million board feet of timber were salvaged, 403 spots were treated by the cut and remove method, and 244 spots were treated by either cut and leave or cut and spray.

*HUMAN RESOURCES*

•The Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Management Team (a group formed by the Wildlife Rehabilitation Nature Center, Inc. of Natchez to aid the Forest Service in recovering the Red-cockaded Woodpecker on the Forest) conducted a breeding survey to determine the timing and success of nesting. Active colonies were visited April through June to record nesting behavior, presence of young, and clan size. This information was valuable in assessing factors limiting this population, evaluating augmentation needs, and prescribing management tailored to each colony's needs.

•Participants served as campground hosts on the Bude Ranger District for a month. They provided the public with general information about the Forest Service. Other duties included policing the campground and routine maintenance work.

•The Mississippi Department of Corrections provided Bude with five inmates to work on Challenge Cost Share Projects. They built a storage building, constructed 500 ft. retainer walls, assisted with the replacement of the new well system, put up replacement signs around the rec. area, built six trail bridges and conducted general maintenance around Clear Springs. Currently, they are building a four unit bathhouse.

•Three female high school students from the Summer Youth Employment & Training Program worked for one month at the recreation area painting picnic tables, relocating the loop trail, dressing up the beach area. They also worked two weeks on erosion control projects. In addition, they received on-the-job-training on safety, conduct and ethics of the Forest Service, RCW Management, etc. They also learned about the Forest Service organization.

## TOMBIGBEE NATIONAL FOREST

*WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES*

•The Forest continued its Challenge Cost Share agreement with Mine & Yours Hunting Club, National Wildlife Turkey Federation, and Quail Unlimited.

*RECREATION*

•Nine new campsites with water and electrical hook-ups were completed this year. A Dump Station was installed on the Ackerman unit; a new bath house with hot showers was completed at Choctaw Lake; the sewage system was extended; and Choctaw Lake road, camping area, picnic area, and the beach parking lot were resurfaced. More gravel beds, fish attractors, and shoreline deepening should be completed by the end of the year to give Choctaw Lake a face lift.

*HUMAN RESOURCES*

•Three volunteer hosts worked on rotating schedules to provide Davis Lake Recreation Area & Campground users with information on camping, swimming, boating, and picnic facilities. The hosts' friendly, courteous attitude made a good impression on Forest users, both campers and day use visitors. Vandalism and nuisance complaints were at a much lower level with the hosts on duty.

•Six volunteers worked on an intermittent basis to provide assistance to the archaeologist in field surveying and site excavation.

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